

April 14, 2006

Ms. Elizabeth Dycus
Chair
Vermont Board of Health
215 Justin Morrill Highway
Strafford VT 05072

Dear Ms. Dycus:

Enclosed please find updated Plans of Correction as required by the Board of Health for conditional licensure of the Vermont State Hospital.

In brief summary:

- The report from the Safety Review on February 21, 2006 is attached to this letter and posted on the VDH website.
- The Division of Licensing and Protection surveyed VSH's current compliance with general hospital regulations in mid-February. A formal report of findings has not been received. The report and plan of correction will also be submitted to the Board as soon as it is available and it will be posted on the VDH website.
- A performance measure for physician documentation and audit tool for evaluation has been developed.
- Agency of Human Services convened a Human Resources workgroup to develop a strategic plan for staff employment options.
- Activities staff will beta test one of UCLA's psychosocial modules, symptom management, by May 31, 2006.
- VSH Governing Body approved the Restricted Items and Search policy which addresses the identification and staff management of contraband.
- An additional psychiatrist has accepted a core faculty position, filling two of the three psychiatry positions available at VSH.
- Later this month, VSH and FAHC administrators and clinicians will meet to review VSH draft policies as part of a monthly review process.
- VSH has decided not to contract with FAHC for the installation and management of a telemedicine link. VSH will contract with Verizon (vendor for FAHC/UVM) directly for the equipment, installation, and management.

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- VSH has arranged to use a FAHC information systems specialist/ pharmacist for consultation about potential software for medication management.

Lastly, the status of a final legal agreement between the State of Vermont and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) is unchanged. DOJ attorneys and psychiatric experts will be at the hospital from May 8 through 12. I will further update the Board once the Agreement is in place.

Sincerely,

Terry Rowe
Executive Director
Vermont State Hospital

Cc: Paul Blake, Deputy Commissioner of Health
W. Beinner, DMH Legal Division
Members: Board of Health